

75) The split collet assembly of claim 71 further comprising a third engaging means disposed on the first outer surface of the collet, wherein:

- a) the first engaging means is disposed adjacent a first end of the collet, and the third engaging means is spaced away therefrom on the collet; and
- b) the second engaging means engages the first engaging means when the collet is expanded and engages the third engaging means when the collet is slid into the sleeve and collapsed.

76) A split collet assembly comprising:

- a) a collapsible split collet comprising plural longitudinal sections forming an adjustable-diameter longitudinal bore through the collet; and
- b) a hoop having a collet receptacle adapted to collapse the collet when the collet is engaged with the hoop, thereby adjusting the diameter of the longitudinal bore from a first larger diameter to a second smaller diameter.

REMARKS

Claims 34-76 remain pending. Claims 1-33 have been canceled. Consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The present application is a divisional of application serial No. 08/601,177. Claims 34-76 are directed to subject matter not covered by the claims allowed in the '177 application. Claims 34-51 cover an orthopedic fastening system. Claims 52-64 cover an elongate fastener used in the orthopedic fastening system. Claims 65-75 cover a split collet assembly used in the orthopedic fastening system. Claim 76 covers a split collet assembly.


The sole remaining inventor is Yosef Freedland. Scott Ganaja has been deleted.

Favorable consideration of the presently filed amendment and its entry into the record is hereby requested. Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 34-76 are in form for allowance and an early notice of allowance thereof is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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